

University of Kentucky, Patterson House  
Lexington  
Fayette County  
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-157

HABS  
KY,  
34-LEX,  
13B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Patterson House

HABS No. KY-157

Location: University of Kentucky Campus, east of the  
Administration Building, Fayette County,  
Lexington, Kentucky

Present Owner: University of Kentucky

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: To be razed in 1967.'

Brief Statement  
of Significance: For forty years this building served as the  
home of the first president of the University  
of Kentucky.

### PART I HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The Commonwealth  
of Kentucky
2. Date of erection: Began July 26, 1880, dedicated  
February 15, 1882
3. Architect: H. P. McDonald & Brothers, Louisville,  
Kentucky.  
Carpenters: F. Bush & Sons, Lexington, Kentucky  
Plasterers: B. J. Campbell & Company  
Building Materials: G. P. Wilgus  
Painters, Glazers: Charles W. Foushee & Company  
Roofers: Witt & Brown, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Stone Work: John Heddman, Louisville, Kentucky  
(Archives of University of Kentucky)

About the Architect: Harry P. McDonald, senior member and founder of McDonald & Brothers, Architects, joined the Confederate Army in 1865 when he was sixteen years of age. Educated at Washington and Lee, he was a resident engineer on the construction of Elizabethtown and Paducah railroad. Afterward he founded the firm of McDonald & Brothers. Brother members at sometime or another were Kenneth and Donald. "Built a great many of important buildings in Kentucky." (History of Kentucky, VII, E. Polk Johnson, Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill, 1912, p. 995.)

4. Original plan, construction etc.: rooms, pantry storeroom and bathroom, (Lexington Transcript, February 15, 1882)
5. Notes on alterations and additions:
  - a) It was agreed to lower President Patterson's house (roof) with metal, minutes of Board of Trustees 6/2/1887.
  - b) \$300.00 was appropriated for installation of furnace, minutes of Board of Trustees 9/10/1919.
  - c) Funds appropriated to install bathroom on lower floor because of Patterson illness, minutes of Board of Trustees 7/7/1920.  
It is not certain if above alterations were carried out.
  - d) Redecorated inside (painted, new curtains, etc.) in 1933 to be used as womens student recreation building.
  - e) Redecorated again for faculty club (one room as billiard and game room, etc.) in 1939.
6. Important old views:
  - a) Front view, 1939 (because WPA project) Negative folder
  - b) Front view 1952, Courier Journal 1/13/52
  - c) 1909 photograph  
All in Archives University of Kentucky

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

1. First occupant, James K. Patterson, President of the University of Kentucky 1882-1922. (Lexington Leader 11/25/32); 1922-1932 Walter K. Patterson, (Lexington Leader 11/15/32); 1933-1939 Women's Recreation Building, (Lexington Leader 11/25/32); 1939-1963 Faculty Club (Lexington Leader 1/5/39); 1963-1965 Office of the Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences (Archives of University of Kentucky)

Prepared by: Clifford Curry  
Architectural Student  
under the direction of:  
Dr. James P. Noffsinger  
Associate Professor of Architecture  
The University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky  
January, 1967

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Plan type representative of region. Sentimental value attached to this house at the University.
2. Condition of fabric: Good; well maintained until recently and now abandoned and awaiting razing.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: approximately 60' x 50'.
2. Foundations: Stone
3. Wall construction: Brick
4. Chimneys: Two short stove pipe chimneys painted red.
5. Openings:

- a) Doorways and doors: One off each side of front porch on northwest corner, one looks original paneled with two windows, the other a recent addition. A large main entrance on north side has been removed and filled in with plywood, brick arch over doorway. Paneled door into kitchen on southeast corner.
- b) Windows: Double hung wood sash, some have brick arch lintel.

6. Roof:

- a) Shape and covering: Mansard roof over central part of house with gable extensions on each side. Shed roof over the porches of slate.
- b) Framing: Timber.
- c) Cornice eaves: Decorated facing board on eaves, cornice on gable on west side of house.
- d) Dormers: One on west side of attic, gable.

7. Porches: Semi-hexagonal porch on northwest corner, concrete floor, shed roof supported by square wood columns. Porch on southeast corner, wood.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

- 1. Floor Plans: Two stories and unfinished attic; entrance hall on west side with spiral staircase and balcony. Lower floor, large rooms on east and south side of entrance hall, hallway leads to kitchen on south side of upper floor, 3 bedrooms off balcony and hallway leads to bathroom and bedroom on west end of house, stairway in hall to the attic.
- 2. Stairways: Stairway is spiral with 21 risers, recently carpeted, turned spindles.
- 3. Flooring: Hardwood flooring "natural," framing could not be determined.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Plastered walls and ceilings, painted.
5. Doorways and Doors: Paneled doors.
6. Trim: Wood trim with mouldings.
7. Hardware: Exterior hardware replaced by modern interior has porcelan knobs and skeleton key locks, not distinguished.
8. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures, exposed wiring.
9. Heating: Originally fireplaces, steam radiators now in use.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation: On University of Kentucky Campus grounds. Main front is located on northwest.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: Blacktop drive encircles house.
5. Landscaping: Simple--not original.

Prepared by: John K. Kingston  
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